

(221)

SELECTIONS
FROM THE
VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS,

PUBLISHED IN THE
PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH,
AND THE
CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received from the 21st to the 31st of March, 1859.

THE *Oudh Ukhbar*, of the 16th of March, notices the death of the Nizam of Hyderabad, and the placing of his son, a minor, on the *guddee*. The writer says :—" We shall see whether this youth will be able to do anything for this large State, and what arrangements Mr. Saunders and Salar Jung will now make." This paper alludes to the contradictory reports concerning the conversion of four Europeans to Mahomedanism; and says that the Government is anxious to find out the truth or falsity of the rumour; and, if false, to discover whence it emanated.

The *Malwa Ukhbar*, of the 17th of March, quotes English papers to the effect that " Lord Mayo has been invested by the India Office with more than usual powers; and that those who are appointed under Lord Mayo have been selected from the same office without advice and consent. Moreover, in the approaching winter, the plans arranged for proceeding on a tour through Rajpootana have been adhered to." All things considered, the writer thinks that " great power has been invested in Lord Mayo by the India Office; and in his heart the Lord Sahib must be filled with perplexity from so much power, and must be greatly put out."

Under the heading " Power of Russia in Asia," the following appears :—" The country of Asia shows strangely now-a-

days. Those who dive into futurity find cause to look and wonder ;" &c., &c. The writer here quotes the *Englishman* and *Friend of India* upon Central Asian affairs, to the effect that the market is very warm concerning the Russian Government. "In every place there is possession and adjustment of disputes. The entire country of Turkistan has become subject to it ; the Khan of Kokund, although he is on his throne, is under the Russians. A Russian cantonment is established at Samarkhund, and the Bokhara country can be added to it at will. The Russian camp is at Tashkhund ; and only one thing remains to be said, which is, that Russian women are scarce, but plans and resolutions about them are being formed ;" &c., &c. The writer goes on to enumerate the several proofs of Russian advances in Central Asia, all of which have appeared in the English journals under notice ; and he concludes by saying that "as long as Ameer Shere Ali keeps friendship with the English Government, and is firm in his rule, or on his throne, there will be a strong wall ;" &c., &c.

The *Ukhbar Alum*, of the 18th of March, publishes another complaint against the railway. The writer fears he has not space to devote to a list of all the discomforts travellers have to endure ; but among others he instances the uncertainty of the time they keep, especially as regards the East Indian railway train at Ghazeeabad, where passengers have to remain in the greatest discomfort all day or night, waiting for the Punjab trains ; &c., &c. The editor recommends that if the time of the Punjab trains was ordered to suit the East Indian trains, the difficulty would be removed ; but that as it is, the public suffers considerably. The writer wonders how the railway officials have permitted this great inconvenience to occur ; and thinks that the Punjab people are most to blame, and that until the Government agency interferes, it will continue ; &c., &c.

In alluding to the many taxes the Sultan of Turkey has discontinued, is said "*Subhan ah Illah !* (Oh, God !) as is the

favour on the people here in forgiving the taxes, this is the sense of justice displayed by the Sultan. If our Government would do the same, it would be a mercy in this time of scarcity. It would not be difficult to accomplish by those who have been generous."

The *Allypore Institute Gazette*, of the 20th of March, referring to the ceremony of commencing a new public building, explains why such ceremony attending the laying of a first stone is necessary; and says, that although it was omitted upon the occasion alluded to, he feels assured that all, whether Christian, Hindoo, or Mahomedan, mentally invoked the blessing of God upon the undertaking.

It is remarked that the students at Government schools evince a striking ignorance of common things, owing to the fact of the non-existence of any simple books in the vernacular treating of the natural philosophy, &c., of common everyday life. The writer says the question is:—"If the study of this subject is postponed until the boys can study it in English voluntarily, will it not be neglected altogether? Another question is, is the present class of masters, vernacular and English, untrained as they are, capable of teaching *common things*? There is great need of a normal school in these Provinces."

An *Enquirer* asks whether it is a fact, as has been stated, that the Jewish race enjoy total immunity from the scourge of cholera; and if so, to what may it be attributed.

The *Meerut Gazette*, of the 20th of March, does not contain anything of importance to notice.

The *Punjabee Ukhbar*, of the 19th of March, mentions the progress of the Ameer Shere Ali through the Punjab, with an account of the Durbar in the Montgomery Hall, &c., &c., without comment.

The generosity of the Maharajah of Puttiala comes in for high praise. It is said that when this Chief went to Simla

last year he gave Rs. 7,000 to the Bishop's school there. The Maharajah is said to be a great patron of education and general progress.

The *Agra Educational Gazette*, of the 10th of March (now first received), is published at Agra, in the Oordoo character. This paper opens with an article under the heading "Freedom," and says that "the drum of freedom is being beaten in all Hindoostan; that the English are sowing the seeds of freedom; and that there is no doubt that people sacrifice their lives to purchase freedom;" &c., &c. The article appears to be an introductory one to the paper, as the writer goes on to say, that the path of an editor is where the lion, bear, and wolf are likely to tear him, and where snakes and scorpions sting; but to counteract all this evil, the British Government interests itself with true-heartedness; &c., &c. The writer compares the state of the newspaper press in England with it in this country, and how much more newspapers are appreciated in England; "there fresh news is sold like sweetmeats in this country." He concludes by saying that there is a certain connection between freedom and newspapers, and the progress of one proceeds from the other; that the freedom of a country may be estimated by the number of newspapers published in it; and therefore the writer is "pleased at the publication of a newspaper, which is like a tree planted in the garden of freedom, the fruits of which all are invited to taste in Hindoostan;" &c., &c. The Educational Report is noticed: the writer thinks it strange that this report should be required to be sent up by the 15th of April, as the rains last until the 15th of October, and in the last week the arrangements for inspecting commence, and a month is a very short time to make up a report in, while fifteen days at least are required for the detailed accounts. The writer does not seem to approve of the broken period—fifteen days; and he says that "supposing an Inspector to look at 1,000 schools, if he raced day and night, he could not possibly accomplish his work in four months, so that the report must suffer; but

if a paper report is all that is necessary, it can be accomplished in as pompous a manner as possible without much trouble; but the work of this department is widely spread, and for this reason time is required;" and he thinks up to the 15th of April should be allowed for the inspection, and from the 1st of May to the 1st of July be given for the report.

Writing about the concourse of people at large fairs, the watchful kindness and friendship of Sir William Muir is noticed. The writer says:—"What a deal has been done for the comfort of the people since Sir William became Lieutenant-Governor, North-Western Provinces; that his prompt action in the time of famine has saved many a life from the fatal stroke, and that he collected the funds in such an easy kind manner that those who gave as well as those who received were alike pleased." The writer goes on to praise the arrangements about fairs which appeared in the *Gazette*, "which, if acted on, will effect much good; but he fears that in such large assemblies it will be impossible to carry out the arrangements, as ignorant people are given to roaming about, and evil consequences will be the result." He concludes by suggesting that something more may be done; that the multitude be divided into parties; and the arrangements proposed be carried out in each division; &c., &c.

The same paper of the 20th of March, opens with a lecture on education: the examination of the students of the Agra College, and distribution of prizes by the Lieutenant-Governor, are noticed.

Concerning the Agra Durbar, the writer says that it came most opportunely, and that all who attended did so in ease and comfort, owing to the excellent arrangements; &c. It is said that His Honor the Lieutenant-Governor received all with great respect and kindness; and "this is brought to notice, because at the last Durbar some of the managers displayed ill-temper; and notwithstanding there was ample room in the Durbar, some respectable people were kept out."

The *Koh-i-Noor*, of the 20th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 20th of March, after a good deal of what is mere repetition, notices the instalment of the heir of the Nizam of Hyderabad on the throne, at which the writer says all are pleased. The infant, 2½ years old, is said to be very handsome.

The extraordinary customs of the "Toda tribe" come in for notice, and their cruelty in the manner in which they slaughter buffalos is remarked upon, extracted from some other paper. It is suggested that Government should interfere, and put a stop to such cruelty.

It is said that two persons, a Mussulman Bengalee, and an Arabic school-master, have been brought from Saharunpoor to Delhi, charged with having in their possession some papers connected with the Akhoond of Swat.

The *Rohilkhund Ukhbar*, of the 20th of March, after much that is old, mentions a report to the effect that Heera Singh, treasurer of some temple at Umritsur, has defrauded it of some Rs. 60,000 (£6,000). "The *mahunt* complained, and has got a decree for the amount."

The *Unjumun Hind*, of the 20th of March, does not require particular notice.

The *Bhiddia Bilass*, of the 13th of March, on the authority of a correspondent at Umritsur, mentions a heavy and continuous fall of rain; and that people whom the famine had driven away had returned, and expressed themselves as most grateful to the Government for the assistance rendered. The editor adds, that the justice and generosity of Government are well known, but that this good work speaks more in its favour, as it could only have been done by such a Government; and that up to this time no other rulers have dealt so kindly and generously with their dependents. "May God ever keep his canopy over such rulers of Hindoostan and the Punjab."

The *Rahnoomai Punjab*, of the 19th of March, and the *Sa-di-q-ool Ukhbar*, of the 20th, do not require particular notice.

The *Nusseem Jounpoor*, of the 23rd of March, mentions a case of superstition at Imlee, in the Umballa District. "A villager, with very little brains, was ploughing his field, and accidentally killed a snake. The man began to cry, and sent for a Brahmin, to whom he addressed himself as follows:— 'Maharaj, by my hands *Deota Jee* (a Hindoo god) is dead to-day: give me some advice and save me from hell.' The Brahmin told him that he had committed a great sin, and that the only atonement he could make for it was an offering of the plough and bullocks, and to sit at ease without working. The silly fellow was pacified, and made over his means of livelihood to the Brahmin!"

The *Sholatore*, of the 23rd of March, the *Moofeed-ool Anam*, of the 18th, the *Ukmil-ool Ukhbar*, of the 24th, and the *Nai-yar Ukhbar*, of the 25th, do not require particular notice. The *Ukmil ool Ukhbar* refers to the case of a Deputy Postmaster in the Ghazeepore district, who was in the habit of extracting and appropriating the contents of registered letters, and his punishment of 12 years' imprisonment with hard labour.

The *Cordoo Delhi Gazette*, of the 27th of March, mentions on the authority of a paper from Allahabad, that a sorrowful circumstance occurred a few days before in the Court of the Magistrate at that place; inasmuch as that "in accordance with the orders of Government, Mr. Robertson Sahib ordered a vaccinator to vaccinate his office people; hearing which, all the baboos became alarmed, and attempted to escape it; but the head baboo, who was braver than the rest, submitted, and others followed his example: that one among them, who was a weak-minded man, fell down in a faint when he heard it, but owing to prompt attention he recovered." The editor expresses a hope that in future more care will be taken, and mentions a rumour that among the baboos who have been vaccinated was a boy of 17 years old. "After the operation

he was on his way home, when his tongue began to move, and he said, 'If I die, who will feed my mother?' Saying this, he died; and his mother, whose only son he was, is in great grief. Enough; if in this case Mr. Robertson will help this poor woman from the relief fund, it will be right. No one can say but that the boy would have lived had he not been vaccinated; and it is a common thing with these vaccinators, after doing their work, to take no more notice of those upon whom they operate. Moreover, when this vaccinator heard of the fate of the lad, he replied, tauntingly, 'Well, if one baboo has died, what does it signify?'

The *Nujm-ool Ukhbar*, of the 24th of March, does not call for particular remark.

The *Ukhbar Alum*, of the 25th of March, after extracts from English papers, notices the interview of the 13th of March of the ex-King of Oudh with the Governor-General. The writer says:—"This is the same King of Oudh (and the world knows it full well) to whose most trifling movement a thousand respects were paid by Government; now no notice is taken of his former greatness. This is the result of the mismanagement of his country. He refused to have an interview with the late Lord Canning; but he is no very great criminal, and is not deserving of this treatment."

The *Allygurh Institute Gazette*, of the 26th of March, reports proceedings of a meeting of the Local Educational Committee, Allygurh.

The arrival of His Excellency the Viceroy at Allygurh on the evening of the 26th, *en route* to Umballa, is noticed in an "Extraordinary." "His Excellency was received on the platform by the principal officials of the district, European and native, Rajah Jey Kishen Dass Bahadoor, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Allygurh Institute, had the honour of being presented to the Viceroy by His Honor Sir William Muir, in his capacity of Vice-Patron of the Society. Lord

Mayo is said to have enquired into the nature and objects of the Institution, and was pleased to accept copies of the Society's various publications. Sir William Muir kindly acted as interpreter during the interview, and the Viceroy graciously expressed his approval of the Society's objects and operations."

The *Meerut Gazette*, of the 27th of March, and the *Dub-duba Secundree*, of the 6th, do not require especial notice.

The same paper of the 13th of March contains the following:—"Formerly we wrote about this person, a *Shahzada* (prince) of Delhi. It is now said that he arrived at Jeypoor on his way to Tonk, and had an interview with the respectable people there. One day the Doctor Mirza Shah Beg, Agent of Banda, went to the Political Agent, and reported that the Prince desired an interview with him; then Mirza Sooriaja, son of Mirza Elahee Buksh, Prince at Delhi, with the Hakeem Abdool Samed Khan, son of Abdool Huq Sahib, the former Minister of Bullubgurh, with others of their retinue, went. The Sahib Bahadoor advanced to the stairs to meet them, and the usual ceremony was gone through. Then the Sahib Agent went to visit them, and Sahib Alum met him in the same manner. The next day the Prince again visited the Agent, &c., and on the 4th of March he went to Tonk." The editor remarks that this Prince is a sincere and respectable man, well known and liked: "God bless him."

The *Mujma-ool Bharain*, of the 25th of March, publishes what has already appeared in other papers.

The *Koh-i-Noor*, of the 27th of March, after extracts, and a long account of the arrival of Ameer Shere Ali Khan at Lahore, publishes an ode in praise of the Ameer, by Rai Kunhya Lall, Executive Engineer, Lahore.

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 27th of March, publishes the *Nau Roz* (astronomical table) for the new year. "The Lord

and master of the year is the sun; his temper is truly good, dry, and warm; colour, orange; resident of the fourth heaven; riding the lion; a crown of gold; Prime Minister; Mercury (quicksilver), resident of the sixth heaven. In this year the rulers will have light and splendour; great promotion in appointments, rank, and dignity; to a great amount temper will be anger. All jewellers, bankers, and alchemists, will reap rich profits; honour and wealth will be given them; counterfeit-coiners will be punished; the mint arrangements will be new. Moonshees, hakeems, poets, story-tellers, and lawyers, will, together with all learned men, be greatly pleased. There will be much honour and promotion from the rulers, who will look continually to the spread of knowledge; new schools will be established, especially Nagree, and females will flock to them in great numbers. Pilgrimages will be few, as many of the world will be disappointed and excluded from them, and some will return from the road. A tax will be levied on pilgrims by the Government; the learned will be victims of misfortune and ruin,—that is, lies will be the order of the day, and false oaths will be numerous; judicial decrees by Kazees will be opposed to truth; there will be few prayers, but plenty of tale-bearers; there will be many criminals; in Courts justice and redress will be given; cases of debt will be very plentiful in Civil Courts: some new Civil laws will be instituted; new stamp arrangements; condition of villagers will be bad; ditto butchers, and other low orders; much wrangling; Moonshees will take much to music; and there will be many marriages contracted with dancing girls, but the results will not be good; and women will claim marriage rights from the courts of law. By God's blessing rain will be plentiful, storms many, heat great, and fires of frequent occurrence. The river to the west will be dry, and travellers by water ruined. Sickness will be great on the Deccan side; in some respects the peace-market will be moderate; grain will be scarce in the east, north, and west," &c., &c.

The *Muir Gazette*, of the 28th of March, the *Juluators* of the same date, and the *Moofeed-ool Anam*, of the 25th, do not require particular notice. The latter paper mentions that a railway official at Dinapore shot a Hindoostanee with a gun and killed him; but up to the present time the circumstances of the case have not been made known: having said which, the writer considers that "it is a happy thing the *Daily News* has brought it to the notice of Government in his paper."

The *Murdhurmint*, of the 15th of March, republishes much from other papers, English and native. Under the heading "Hyderabad," it is said that Sir Salar Jung has imported a Civil Engineer from England, for the purpose of teaching in the school at Chundu Ghât.

A *mahunt* (Hindoo priest) is said to have arrived at Oodeypoor, and taken up his position in a garden, where he has commenced some novel proceedings. He is said to have "put fire under stones, and sat on them for some days, he being head foremost in a well! People are said to flock from great distances to see this man; and among them the Rana Sahib of Oodeypoor), to whom it is said the *mahunt* talked in a careless manner, and that the Rana visits him daily. One day the Rana went shooting, and the *mahunt* told him that he would kill a great lion, which was really done; so the Rana went and worshipped him, falling at his feet;" &c.; "took him into his palace; and has now begged of him that he, the Rana, may be blessed with a son, which the *mahunt* has promised shall come to pass.

Another case of superstition is noticed, of no importance to Government.

The *Ukhbar Benares*, of the 25th of March, after extracts from other papers, English and vernacular, publishes the following:—"It is written in the Hindoo creed that Sir

Krishna Jee—the giant Bhoomaisur—took away 16,000 women; but where did he find a place large enough to keep them all in? It is difficult to answer this; but now-a-days the place has been discovered." The writer goes on to say, that some one has given the news that at Mooglai, about 30 miles from the village Varung, there is a village, Mokurdhun, near which there is a stream, and a hill was being dug, when under it a very large and handsome building was discovered, with *purdahs* (screens) of gold; &c., &c. The writer goes on to say, that if the *purdahs* are made of gold, how much wealth must be hidden there; &c., &c.; and concludes by saying that "by rights it all belongs to the Sirkar (the Rajah), and the English Government ought to let him have it: "let us see what will be done."

Reference is made to a cantonment and a large bazar which are being constructed near or at Ramnuggur (Benares), which places are to be called Chummanuggur. "The great pundits from every country are coming here, and will stay at this bazar, where the Maharajah pays all respect to them. He is such a charitable man, that he gives lakhs of rupees for one work alone, and always looks to the wants of the poor;" &c.

The following vernacular newspapers have been examined in this Report, viz. :—

No.	NAME OF PAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.	WHEN RECEIVED.
			1869.	1869.
1	<i>Oudh Ukhbar,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	March 16th	March 21st
2	<i>Malwa Ukhbar,</i> ...	Indore, ...	" 17th	" 22nd
3	<i>Ukhbar Alum,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 18th	" 22nd
4	<i>Allygurh Institute,</i> ...	Allygurh, ...	" 19th	" 22nd
5	<i>Meerut Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 20th	" 22nd
6	<i>Punjabee Ukhbar,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	" 19th	" 23rd
7	<i>Educational Gazette (new),</i> ...	Agra, ...	" 10th	" 24th
8	<i>Ditto ditto,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	" 20th	" 24th
9	<i>Koh-i-Noor,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	" 20th	" 24th
10	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	" 20th	" 25th
11	<i>Rohilkhund Ukhbar,</i> ...	Moradabad, ...	" 20th	" 25th

No.	NAME OF PAPER.	WHERE PUBLISHED.	DATE.		WHEN RECEIVED.	
			1869.		1889.	
12	<i>Unjumun Hind,</i> ...	Lucknow, ...	"	20th	"	25th
13	<i>Bhiddia Bilass,</i> ...	Jummoo, ...	"	13th	"	26th
14	<i>Rahnoomai Punjab,</i> ...	Sealkote, ...	"	19th	"	26th
15	<i>Sadiq-ool Ukhbar,</i> ...	Bhawulpoor, ...	"	20th	"	26th
16	<i>Nusseem Jounpoor,</i> ...	Jounpoor, ...	"	23rd	"	26th
17	<i>Sholatore,</i> ...	Cawnpoor, ...	"	23rd	"	26th
18	<i>Moofeed-ool Anam,</i> ...	Futtehgurh, ...	"	18th	"	27th
19	<i>Ukmil-ool Ukhbar,</i> ...	Delhi, ...	"	24th	"	27th
20	<i>Naiyār Akbar Ukhbar,</i> ...	Bijnour, ...	"	25th	"	27th
21	<i>Oordoo Delhi Gazette,</i> ...	Agra, ...	"	27th	"	28th
22	<i>Nujm-ool Ukhbar,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	27th	"	29th
23	<i>Ukhbar Alum,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	25th	"	29th
24	<i>Allygurh Institute,</i> ...	Allygurh, ...	"	26th	"	29th
25	<i>Meerut Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	27th	"	29th
26	<i>Dubduba Secundree,</i> ...	Rampoor, ...	"	6th	"	30th
27	<i>Ditto ditto,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	13th	"	30th
28	<i>Mujma-ool Bharain,</i> ...	Loodiana, ...	"	25th	"	30th
29	<i>Koh-i-Noor,</i> ...	Lahore, ...	"	27th	"	30th
30	<i>Lawrence Gazette,</i> ...	Meerut, ...	"	27th	"	30th
31	<i>Muir Gazette,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	28th	"	30th
32	<i>Julwatore,</i> ...	Ditto, ...	"	28th	"	30th
33	<i>Moofeed-ool Anam,</i> ...	Futtehgurh, ...	"	25th	"	31st
34	<i>Murdhurmint (Nagree),</i> ...	Joudpoor, ...	"	15th	"	22nd
35	<i>Ukhbar Benares (Ditto),</i> ...	Benares, ...	"	25th	"	28th

(True translation.)

GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,

Government Reporter on the Vernacular Press,

DELHI :
The 8th March, 1869. }

Upper India.

No.	Name of Person	Where Born	Date	Where
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